

Protection secured by diminishing the leaf surface is especially marked in a grass, *Aciachne pulvinata*. The blade is so strongly involute that the stomatiferous superior face is a mere furrow. The cells of the inferior epidermis are very thick walled and there are three layers of sclerenchyma inside the epidermis, all around the blade.

In some other plants the leaves are awl-shaped with the aspect of conifers or lycopods; such forms were observed in *Hedyotis nitida* HBK., which belongs to the Rubiaceæ; in *Lysipomia* of the Lobeliaceæ; and in *Phyllactis* of the Valerianaceæ; in species of *Alchemilla* and others.

There are, however, other peculiar forms of paramo-plants, which can not be arranged under any of the three above named groups; for instance some Umbelliferæ with leaves like those of a *Funcus*, namely *Ottoa*, *Crantzia*, etc.

Although these paramo-plants show the so-called xerophilous structure, the author calls attention to the fact, that a similar structure is also known in plants which do not belong there, but inhabit widely different localities. We therefore cannot always depend too much on structure in determining the character of the locality, because anatomical structure in this instance merely shows that the individuals live in a climate where a protection against transpiration has become necessary. This special vegetation seems to have been forced into its present shape for defence against stormy winds rather than extreme heat.—THEO. HOLM.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

The identity of *Asclepias stenophylla* and *Acerates auriculata*.—(See p. 124 *ante*.) Correction must be made regarding the name recognized. There is an *Asclepias auriculata* Kunth. So Engelmann's *Asclepias auriculata* is not tenable. Dr. Gray's name, *Asclepias stenophylla*, must therefore stand. I hasten to make this correction, the more since I hesitated at the time in following the dictum that "the oldest available specific name" must stand. It seems to me, from this present experience, that to take up "the oldest available specific name *in the right genus*" is safer and less liable to reconsideration.—J. M. HOLZINGER, Washington D. C.